

Message Text

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INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BREMEN PRIORITY

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TAGS: MARR, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: AGREED PRESS STATEMENT ON US-FRG DEFENSE ISSUES

1. FOLLOWING AGREED PRESS STATEMENT CONCERNING NORTHAG
BRIGADE COST AND QUESTIONS OF OFFSET ARRANGEMENTS WAS
RELEASED JULY 17 BY US AND FRG GOVERNMENTS;

BEGIN TEXT: -- THE CHANCELLOR AND THE PRESIDENT HAVE AGREED
ON A MEASURE EXEMPLIFYING THE CLOSE GERMAN-AMERICAN
SECURITY RELATIONSHIP IN EUROPE, ONE WHICH STRENGTHENS
CONSIDERABLY THE FORCE POSTURE OF NATO DEFENSES. THE
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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS AGREED TO SHARE AS A SINGLE

PAYMENT IN THE COSTS OF RELOCATING A US COMBAT BRIGADE INTO THE NORTHERN AREA OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, NEAR BREMEN. THE CONTRIBUTION TO THIS EFFORT AMOUNTS TO DM 171.2 MILLION (\$68.48 MILLION).

-- THE CHANCELLOR AND THE PRESIDENT HAVE ALSO BEEN DISCUSSING, OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, THE GENERAL QUESTION OF OFFSET ARRANGEMENTS WHICH SERVE OUR OWN, AND THE ALLIANCE'S SECURITY NEEDS. AS IS WELL KNOWN, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY THROUGH THE YEARS HAS PURCHASED SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, AND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO DO SO. THIS PROCUREMENT HAS, OF COURSE, BENEFITTED THE UNITED STATES IN THE ECONOMIC SENSE.

-- IT SHOULD ALSO BE REITERATED THAT SINCE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY BECAME A PARTNER IN THE NATO EFFORT, IT MAINTAINED ITS DEFENSE FORCES IN A STATE OF COMBAT READINESS EQUAL TO THE TASKS BEFORE IT. AT A TIME OF EXTREME BUDGETARY AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE ALLIANCE, IT IS REASSURING TO THE US THAT THE CHANCELLOR INTENDS TO CONTINUE THIS HIGHLY POSITIVE AND WELCOME ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY'S NATO COMMITMENT.

-- GIVEN THE RECENTLY INTRODUCED CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AREA, SPECIFICALLY FLEXIBLE EXCHANGE RATES, AS WELL AS THE NOTABLY IMPROVED STRENGTH OF THE DOLLAR AND A MORE ACCEPTABLE US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION, THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR CONSIDER THAT THE TRADITIONAL OFFSET ARRANGEMENTS APPROACH HAS LOST ITS RELEVANCE. END TEXT ROBINSON

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